

Romeo and Juliet

Act Three (study guide)

Act Three - Scene One

(This scene marks the climax of the drama.)

1. Tybalt, still enraged at Romeo's intrusion at the Capulet's ball, is determined to fight, but Romeo refuses. Why?
2. How does Mercutio get involved, and what happens to him?
3. How does Romeo react to this?
4. What decree does the Prince make?
5. Explain how this scene serves as the climax or turning point of the drama. (Think of all that has happened between Romeo and Juliet so far.)

Act Three - Scene Two

6. Explain the dramatic irony in the beginning of this scene.
7. How does Juliet react to the nurse's news?
8. What does Juliet plan to do with the cords? (See lines 132-137)
9. How does the nurse console her?

Act Three - Scene Three

10. How does Romeo react to the news of his banishment?

Act Three - Scene Four

12. How does the action in this scene complicate matters even further?

13. How does Capulet's attitude now differ from his attitude when Paris first came to ask for Juliet's hand in marriage?

14. Explain the dramatic irony in this scene.

Act Three - Scene Five

Day breaks, and the two lovers must part after consummating their wedding vows. Juliet is very reluctant to have Romeo leave her and does not want to admit that it is morning. Finally Romeo leaves and Juliet's mother comes to her chamber. Their conversation about Tybalt's death has Juliet speaking in ambiguous terms.

15. Explain the paradoxical (contradictory) phrases in lines 94-103.

16. How does Capulet react to Juliet's refusal to marry Paris?

17. What advice does the nurse give Juliet?

18. What does Juliet decide to do?